

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 43, 48-60, and 62-77 are pending in the subject application. Claims 43, 60, 72, and 74-77 have been amended. All claims currently pending and under consideration in the above-identified application are shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method for device selection in a computer system having a hardware and devices folder that uses a function discovery database to enumerate a list of all devices installed on the computer system, the method comprising:

creating a common file dialog object suitable for displaying information associated with devices installed on the computer system to a user on a display device, wherein said creating comprises leveraging at least one file management tool within the computer system;

associating a user-selected filter with the common file dialog object;

obtaining device information corresponding to the devices installed on the computer system to be displayed by accessing device information contained in a the function discovery database, wherein the function discovery database is also used by a the hardware and devices folder to enumerate a list of the installed devices, the hardware and devices folder being different from the created common file dialog object;

filtering the device information using the user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of enumerated devices, the filtered subset comprising a plurality of relevant devices;

causing the common file dialog object to output display information of the filtered subset of enumerated devices to the display device, the display information comprising an iconic representation of a device each of the plurality of relevant devices in the filtered subset and a corresponding textual description of each of the plurality of relevant devices the device;

displaying a common file dialog comprising a plurality of icons representing all of the relevant devices such that representations of all of the relevant devices are provided within a single display area, wherein the common file dialog provides a consistent way for each of a plurality of applications to present devices to a user and to receive device selections from the user;

receiving a user selection of a device; and

returning a reference to the selected device.

44-47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein accessing the device information contained in the function discovery database comprises using a programming interface.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 48, wherein using a programming interface comprises:

creating information for a first segment of code, the information received from the common file dialog object; and

communicating the information for the first segment of code to a second segment of code in the function discovery database to access functionality provided by the second segment of code.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises communicating through a medium.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises dividing the communication into multiple discrete communications.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein the multiple discrete communications are divided into divisible sets of functionality.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises redefining the communication by ignoring at least one or more parameters.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises using one or more pieces of middleware to convert the communications of the first code segment to a second code segment.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises rewriting functionality.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein each segment of code includes at least one of a module, object, subroutine, and function.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein each segment of code includes at least one of a source code, intermediate code, or object code.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein receiving a user selection of a device from the displayed common file dialog object comprises determining whether an actionable function on a device within a user interface has been selected.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 58, wherein determining whether an actionable function on a device within a user interface has been selected includes determining that a right-click has been performed.

60. (Currently Amended) A system for accessing and manipulating device information for devices installed on attached to a computing device having a hardware and devices folder that uses a function discovery database to enumerate a list of all devices attached to the computing device, wherein the device information is presented in a unified way, the system comprising:

a set of available installed devices attached to a computing device having a processing unit coupled to a system bus, wherein each of the set of available

installed devices is connected to the processing unit through an interface that is coupled to the system bus the computing device;

computer-readable media storing a plurality of applications, each of the plurality of applications comprising a program module that performs a task, wherein the program module requires a user to select a device to be used by the application in performing the task;

a device selection user interface displaying actionable icons that displays a plurality of actionable icons, each actionable icon representing an available device, wherein the device selection user interface further displays and a textual description corresponding to each actionable icon for each of said the set of devices;

a function discovery database having enumerated device information corresponding to the set of available installed devices;

a programming interface corresponding to the device selection user interface for interacting with the function discovery database;

a filtering component for selecting a subset of available enumerated devices having a plurality of user-selectable filters and an executable component, which, when executed, filters device information using a user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of available enumerated devices; and

a data processing component having an executable component, which, when executed in response to a call from one of a plurality of applications executable by the computing device, wherein each of the plurality of applications requires a user to select a device to be used by the application;

creates a common file dialog object on the user interface having actionable icons for the set of devices;

associates a user-selected filter with the common file dialog object;

obtains a filtered subset of available enumerated devices to be displayed within the common file dialog object by accessing device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface and the filtering component, wherein the function discovery database is also used by the a hardware and devices folder to enumerate a list of the installed attached devices, the hardware and devices folder being different from the created common file dialog object;

causes the common file dialog object to output display information of the filtered subset of available enumerated devices to a display device, the display information comprising the icon of a each device in the filtered subset and the corresponding textual description of the each device, wherein the display device displays a common file dialog comprising a plurality of icons representing all of the devices in the filtered subset such that representations of all of the devices in the filtered subset are provided within a single display area, and further wherein the common file dialog presents devices in the same way each of the plurality of applications;

receives a user selection of a device; and

returns a reference to the selected device.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the actionable icons for the set of devices have a click option for displaying device information.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 62, wherein the actionable icons for the set of devices have a right-click option for displaying device information.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface includes descriptions of the set of devices.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has an actionable button for a mouse.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has an actionable button for a keyboard.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has a control bar.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the programming interface corresponding to the device selection user interface for interacting with the function discovery database comprises:

a first code segment on the common file dialog object; and

a second code segment on the function discovery database;

wherein, when executed, the data processing component having the executable component communicates information through the first code segment to the second code segment.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 68, wherein the information being communicated through the first code segment to the second code segment is separated into multiple discrete communications.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 69, wherein the multiple discrete communications are divided into divisible sets of functionality.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 68, further comprising one or more pieces of middleware to convert the information being communicated through the first code segment to the second code segment.

72. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing executable computer-readable components for presenting information corresponding to devices connected to a personal computer in a unified and consistent way and for accessing and manipulating device information for one or more of said devices upon being selected by a user, the executable computer-readable components comprising:

a device selection user interface component ~~adapted to~~ that displays actionable icon components and a textual description for each of a set of connected devices, wherein the device selection user interface component ~~is~~ is further adapted to displays a control bar comprising a plurality of mechanisms for manipulating information about the devices;

a programming interface component corresponding to the device selection user interface component for interacting with a function discovery database, the function discovery database having enumerated device information corresponding to a set of available devices connected to the personal computer; and

a data processing component having an executable component configured to be executed in response to a function call from an application, which, when executed in response to a call from one of a plurality of applications executable by the computing device, wherein each of the plurality of applications requires a user to select a device to be used by the application:

creates a common file dialog object on the user interface component having actionable icon components for the set of devices by leveraging at least one mechanism associated with a file management tool within the personal computer;

associates a user-selected filter with the common file dialog object; obtains device information to be displayed within the common file dialog object by accessing device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface component, wherein the function discovery database is also used by a hardware and devices folder to enumerate a list of the connected devices, the hardware and devices folder being different from the created common file dialog object;

filters the device information using the user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of available enumerated devices;

causes the common file dialog object to output display information of the filtered subset of available enumerated devices to a display device, the display information comprising the icon icon of a each device in the filtered subset and the corresponding textual description of the each

device, wherein the display device displays a common file dialog comprising a plurality of icons representing all of the devices in the filtered subset such that representations of all of the devices in the filtered subset are provided within a single display area, and further wherein the common file dialog provides a consistent way for each of the plurality of applications to present devices to a user and to receive device selections from the user;

receives a user selection of a device; and

returns a reference to the selected device.

73. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 72, further comprising a filtering component and an enumeration component, wherein the enumeration component retrieves all relevant device information in the function discovery database and the filtering component allows an application to select a subset of the device information that is returned by the enumeration component according to the user-selected filter.

74. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media having ~~storing~~ computer-executable instructions ~~embodied thereon~~ for performing a method for providing information corresponding to available devices connected to a computing device in a unified and consistent way to a common file dialog object through a programming interface, wherein the common file dialog object is created incident to a function call from an application, the method comprising:

receiving a first information from the common dialog file object through a first segment of code on the programming interface, wherein the common file

dialog object is created incident to a function call from one of a plurality of applications capable of causing the common file dialog object to be created;

accessing enumerated information concerning available connected devices from a function discovery database, the first information being communicated through the first segment of code to a second segment of code on the programming interface, wherein the function discovery database is also used by a hardware and devices folder to enumerate a list of the installed devices, the hardware and devices folder being different from the created common file dialog object;

filtering the enumerated information using a user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of enumerated information, the filtered subset comprising icons representing each of a plurality of relevant devices; and

returning the filtered subset of enumerated information concerning connected devices to the common file dialog object through the programming interface; and

displaying a common file dialog comprising a plurality of icons representing all of the relevant devices such that representations of all of the relevant devices are provided within a single display area, wherein the common file dialog provides a consistent way for each of a plurality of applications to present devices to a user and to receive device selections from the user, and further wherein each of the plurality of applications requires a user to select a device to be used by the application.

75. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ media of Claim 74, wherein accessing enumerated information on the function discovery database comprises breaking the communication, between the first code segment and the second code segment, into multiple discrete communications.

76. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ media of Claim 74, wherein accessing enumerated information on the function discovery database comprises redefining the communication by the second segment of code, the second segment of code ignoring at least one or more parameters from the first segment of code.

77. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ media of Claim 74, further comprising using one or more pieces of middleware to convert the communication on the first code segment to the second code segment.

78. (Canceled)